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A combined contribution with

-Cooperative Extension Service
-USDA Farm Service Agency
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

HEAT WAVE HITS STATE

July 17 - Triple digit temperatures were reported in every district during the week. With only minimal rainfall, soil moisture supplies dwindled rapidly, particularly in the southern third of Oklahoma. Wet weather during June has kept soil moisture supplies in mostly good condition in northern areas of the state. Farmers had 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	5	30	62	3
Last Week	0	6	84	10
Last Year	2	12	83	3

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	3	19	75	3
Last Week	0	11	82	7
Last Year	2	8	88	2

SMALL GRAINS: Wheat harvest essentially reached the 100 percent mark this week. Only a few areas remain unharvested where low-lying areas remained too wet. Wheat stubble was plowed at least once on 79 percent of the state's acreage with progress more advanced in western counties. Some wheat farmers may not double crop soybeans and milo because of the lateness of this year's harvest. Oats and rye harvest were 97 and 95 percent complete, respectively.

ROW CROPS: A full week of warm, dry weather allowed summer crops an opportunity to develop. Corn was rated in fair condition in the Southwest district but in good-to-fair condition in the remainder of the state. Silking was over half completed in every district. Sorghum was rated mostly fair in the Southeast district but in good condition in the remainder of the state. Coloring has begun in scattered counties but was most advanced in the Southwest and South Central districts. Soybeans were rated fair in the Southwest district but in good condition in the remainder of the state. Blooming ranged from 8 percent in the East Central district to 56 percent in the South Central district. Peanuts were rated in fair-to-good condition in the Southwest district but in good condition in the remainder of the state. Setting pods ranged from none in the East Central district to 48 percent in the Southwest district. Cotton was rated in fair-to-good condition in the North Central district but in good condition in the remainder of the state. Development accelerated under hot weather and over 25 percent of the cotton was setting bolls in the major-producing Southwest district. Grasshoppers continue to damage row crops and alfalfa, particularly in southern Oklahoma.

ROW CROPS CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending July 16, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	1	6	68	25
Sorghum	0	2	29	55	14
Soybeans	0	2	19	65	14
Peanuts	0	3	34	55	8
Cotton	0	0	28	53	19

HAY: Alfalfa was rated in mostly good condition in every district. Producers are taking advantage of drier weather with the third cutting of alfalfa in full swing across the state. Hot, dry weather may weaken third cuttings. All other hay was rated in fair-to-good condition in the Southwest district and in good shape in the remainder of the state. Second cutting ranged from 5 percent in the Southwest district to 52 percent in the West Central district.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending July 16, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	0	4	21	65	10
Other Hay	0	1	20	63	16

PASTURE: Range and pasture condition fell slightly due to the heat and recent lack of precipitation. Hot temperatures have slowed growth of both improved and native forages in southern Oklahoma. Grasses have started to burn in areas of the South Central district.

LIVESTOCK: Cattle were rated in mostly good condition. Cattle auctions reported light to mostly average marketings. Weekly feeder steer prices reached the highest level of the year according to the State Department of Agriculture's Market News Service. Body condition number one steers weighing less than 800 pounds averaged \$95.50 per cwt. and steers weighing over 800 pounds averaged \$85.50 per cwt. Insect pressures are reported as moderate to heavy in the southern two-thirds of the state.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending July 16, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	1	10	69	20
Pasture & Range	0	3	19	60	18

MISCELLANEOUS CROPS: Watermelons were rated in mostly fair condition across the southern third of Oklahoma to good-to-excellent condition in the North Central district. Harvest ranged from none in northern counties to 60 percent in the major-producing South Central district.

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS									
July 16, 2000									
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr. Avg	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr. Avg
Wheat -					Peanuts -				
Harvested	100	98	98	99	Pegging	65	41	56	70
Plowed	79	66	57	68	Setting Pods	30	2	15	29
Oats -					Cotton -				
Harvested	97	89	96	96	Squaring	82	70	38	59
Plowed	69	45	53	59	Setting Bolls	20	4	5	10
Corn -					Alfalfa Hay				
Silking	55	37	27	48	2 nd Cutting	95	89	89	93
Dough	23	9	10	15	3 rd Cutting	37	20	37	33
Sorghum -					Other Hay				
Emerged	93	90	96	93	1 st Cutting	87	83	82	84
Headed	13	6	5	13	2 nd Cutting	24	12	16	15
Soybeans -					Watermelons				
Emerged	92	84	65	86	Setting Fruit	98	76	77	81
Blooming	29	11	14	33	Harvested	25	10	8	12

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 16, 2000 - Temperatures ranged from 59.9 degrees at El Reno on Friday, July 14th to 108.3 degrees at Tipton on Sunday, July 16th. Precipitation averaged 0.02 in. West Central district to 0.24 in. Panhandle district. Individual Mesonet stations ranged from 0.00 in. majority of state to 0.64 in. at Catoosa and Claremore. Soil temperatures averaged 76.5 degrees at Kenton on Wednesday, July 12th to 98.0 degrees at Pauls Valley on Thursday, July 13th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA							
Week Ending July 16, 2000							
Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	Average High	Average Low	Average	This Week	March 1 to July 16, 2000		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	97	68	82.1	0.24	11.53	+ 1.49	115
West Central	98	71	83.8	0.02	19.52	+ 6.58	151
Southwest	99	73	85.7	0.10	17.49	+ 4.01	130
North Central	99	71	84.5	0.08	18.41	+ 5.04	138
Central	96	73	84.4	0.03	18.98	+ 2.72	117
South Central	98	74	86.3	0.06	14.83	- 2.97	83
Northeast	95	72	83.5	0.10	24.58	+ 6.32	135
East Central	95	73	84.1	0.05	23.81	+ 4.34	122
Southeast	96	72	83.1	0.05	19.66	- 2.24	90